



## FISHING DERBY CATCHES THE KIDS ATTENTION!

Claude Moore Park sponsored its annual Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 3. We delayed the publishing of this month's newsletter so that we could include the results of the derby and some photos.

Even though there were cloudy skies at times, everyone had a great time fishing at the park's two ponds.



Emily Renich poses for the camera!

31 children fished on Saturday, catching approximately 22 fish. Unfortunately, the variety of fish caught were limited



Shane Crawford casts in the casting contest. Shane was a double winner at this year's derby!

to one Catfish and lots and lots of Bluegill.

Overall winners include:

Biggest Fish—Molly Moriak, 1 lb. 12 oz. Catfish

2nd Biggest Fish—Emily Renich, 6 oz. Bluegill

Most Fish Caught—Shane Crawford, 8 fish

Smallest Fish—Zachary Gallagher, 4" Bluegill

Casting Contest, 11-16 yrs—Anthony Malocu

Casting Contest, 5-10 yrs.—Shane Crawford



Molly Moriak



Anthony Malocu

## WINGS OVER LOUDOUN A SUCCESS!

Claude Moore Park's Wings Over Loudoun Bird Festival was held on a lovely spring day: Saturday, May 13. This event was designed to help our visitors celebrate International Migratory Bird Day; activities included an early morning bird walk, a guided trail walk, and hands-on nature activities at Frogshackle Nature Center.

The Wildlife Center of Virginia also presented a live raptor show called

"View From The Top." During the show, children and their parents were able to see a Red Tailed Hawk, a Bard Owl, and a Kestrel. Children also had the opportunity to measure their own wing span!



During the morning bird walk, over 39 bird species were spotted around the park's meadows and ponds. Many of our visitors walked away with prizes from the Bird Banding Raffle.



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**We're on the web!**

**Try: [www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm](http://www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm)**

## Letterboxing? Geocaching?

Claude Moore Park participates in both Letterboxing and Geocaching. Have you heard of these sports before? If not, let us give you a brief introduction.

Letterboxing is a treasure hunt, of sorts. Letterboxing combines navigational skills as well as rubber-stamping. Written clues are posted for various letterboxes and the clues must be followed in order to find the box. Once that is accomplished, a letterboxer will stamp the log, rehide the letterbox, and move on to another find.

Geocaching is also a treasure hunt, but caches are found using a GPS as well as navigational skills. Longitude and latitude coordinates are posted online. Cachers then find the caches hidden in various locations, write a note in the logbook (or online), and then rehide the cache.

The difference between the two sports is really one of philosophical ideals; letterboxing can be more intriguing because you must follow the clues in order to find the cache. The clues may not always take you on a direct route and that is what encourages letterboxers to hone their navigational skills. Geocaching allows cachers to go directly to the cache because the actual coordinates are provided. Many times, cachers miss some of the intricacies of the caching area due to the direct route. Both activities are family-friendly and allow users to visit areas they may not have thought to visit.

Claude Moore Park hosts one official letterbox, the "French and Indian War Letterbox." This is a great letterbox that leads you through some great vistas while teaching you about the park's history. The park also hosts one official cache, "To The Overlook?" This spot will lead you to a great view of the Maryland and West Virginia mountains! To participate, stop by the Visitor Center to pick up your letterbox clues! You can read more about Letterboxing at [www.letterboxing.org](http://www.letterboxing.org). To get the coordinates of the park's cache, visit [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) and search by the park's zipcode (20164).



**A cacher opens up a cache at Claude Moore Park.**

## SAVE THE DATES! Upcoming special events or programs that you don't want to miss!

Claude Moore Park has some special events and great programs coming up in the next few months.

***Animals of the Night Campfire*** arrives in the park on Wednesday, June 21, from 7:30-9 PM. What animals come out when the sun goes down? Search for signs of a sly fox. Hear the hoots of different owls. Pretend to be a bat and see how much food you can catch. Hike through the park looking for signs of these nighttime critters! Register by calling 703-444-1275; the deadline to register is June 21. \$3.50/person



***The Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Celebration*** is ideal for families who want to attend a low-cost, low-key family event. Join us for an old-fashioned day full of pony rides, wagon rides, pie-eating contest, a performance by the Sterling Playmakers, a "Reptiles Alive" show with snakes, lizards, and turtles, a "Reptiles Alive" after-the-show encounter, hands-on nature displays at Frogshackle Nature Center, tours of the historic Lanesville Ordinary, displays by the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, a birthday cake-cutting event, a cake walk, and holiday crafts! This year's event runs on Tuesday, July 4th from



10:30 AM-3 PM. Enter the park via the Loudoun Park Lane entrance; the admission fee is \$5/carload.

What makes fireflies light up the night—magic or biology? Join us for the ***Fireflies Hike*** on Tuesday, July 11, and find out! Explore how some of these insects light up in the air, some on the ground. Bring a jar and try to catch (and release) them on the trails. And be sure to bring your flashlight to play a game of "firefly tag" at the end of your hike. Register by calling 703-444-1275; the deadline to register is July 11. \$3.50/person.

***Frogshackle Nature Center also has several open house opportunities throughout the summer months.*** Run your fingers through a muskrat's fur. See a life-size fox. Make animal tracks in the sand. Explore our log cabin nature center and see and touch many fascinating objects. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The nature center is showcasing a theme each month; this summer, the themes are as follows: June, Camouflage; July, Red, White & Blue, and August, Snakes. Open Houses are scheduled on the following dates/times, and pre-registration is NOT required for this FREE program: Tuesday, June 20, 1-2 PM; Wednesday, July 19, 1-2 PM; Monday, August 14, 12:30-2 PM; and Thursday, August 31, 1-2 PM.





## Civil War History Tours Available This Summer!

Claude Moore Park has teamed up with Historian Steve Meserve for a fabulous Civil War History Tour this summer. If you enjoy learning about different battles and the legendary leaders of this time period, then join Steve for this trip. See below for the description, and contact the park for more information or to register.

### CIVIL WAR: 8TH VA AT MANASSAS

**Saturday, June 10, 9 AM-5 PM (361727-01)**

Follow the route the 8th Virginia Infantry took from Leesburg to the battle of First Manassas, possibly including a visit to Thoroughfare Gap. After touring the First Manassas Battlefield, step forward in time a year to explore the 8th Virginia at Second Manassas and visit the sites where they fought that action. Additional \$3 fee or National Park Service/Golden Eagle pass needed to enter Manassas Battlefield. Register by 6/9/06.



Trip will depart from and return to the parking lot at the Claude Moore Park Visitor Center in Sterling, VA. Our street address is 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling, VA 20164. Please bring a bag lunch with you. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and the trips are recommended for people ages 12 and over. For more information, please contact Claude Moore Park at 703-444-1275.

## Photos from around the park.



Even the insects are photogenic!



Mowing is a daily chore in the summertime. Brian Rose mows Field 3 outfield.



Children fishing at Frogshackle Pond during the 2006 Fishing Derby.



Claude Moore Park Staff test out the new climbing wall at the Rec. Ctr.



The view of the 50-meter competitive swimming pool at the new Claude Moore Recreation Center.

## Calling all Arts & Crafts Vendors

Do you make and sell jewelry? Do you carve wood and sell your carvings? Do you sculpt pottery and sell your wares? If so, then Claude Moore Park is looking for you. The park is hosting the 2nd Annual Autumn Arts & Crafts Show on Saturday, September 9, 2006.



Claude Moore Park is approximately 30 miles from Washington, DC and Frederick, MD, in the heart of Northern Virginia's shopping district, and close to Route 7, the Capital Beltway, the Dulles Greenway, and Route 28.

This outdoor show will run 10 AM-5 PM; vendors will be assigned set-up and break-down times. For \$30, vendors will be provided with an assigned 10 x 10 area; vendors must provide their own tables, chairs, and tents. This event will be held rain or shine. LIMITED electricity is available for \$10; at this time, the park is limiting electricity to food vendors.

Spaces will be pre-assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. A final confirmation packet will be sent two weeks prior to the show detailing directions, a park map, and grounds information including each vendor's location. Admission to the public is FREE.

Again, the park is only accepting vendors who hand-make their products. The park will not accept manufacturers, retailers, resellers, or importers.

Please visit [www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm](http://www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm) and go to the park's special event section; vendors can download an application from this site. Be sure to follow all directions to apply for this year's show.